BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

Issue: 00-13 7 Pages
March 31, 2000

tel (250) 387-0327
fax (250) 387-0329

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products rose 2.5% (seasonally adjusted) between December and January, boosted by higher shipments of resource-based products.** Forest product exports were up 5.3%, while agriculture and fish (+4.4%) and mineral (+2.2%) product exporters also made gains. However, exports of other processed products fell (-1.9%) for the third month in a row. After providing most of the impetus for export growth during the last year, exports to the US (+0.8%) have begun to slow while shipments to other countries are starting to pick up speed, increasing a healthy 5.7% in January. *Source: BC STATS*

- **The number of regular employment insurance (EI) beneficiaries in the province fell 5.1% (seasonally adjusted), to 53,820, between December and January.** Nationally, the number of EI beneficiaries was down 3.6%, reflecting decreases in all but four regions. Yukon (-7.3%) and Ontario (-6.7%) saw the biggest declines. At the other end of the spectrum, the number of EI recipients increased the most in Saskatchewan (+1.7%) and Manitoba (+1.5%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **There were 634 consumer bankruptcies filed in the province last December, up from 538 in the same month of 1998.** This brought the total number of consumer bankruptcies in the province last year to 8,179, an increase of 11.6% over 1998. Consumer bankruptcies have been climbing steadily since the mid-1990s, with a brief hiatus in 1998 when bankruptcies dipped in almost every province, including BC (-0.5%). Since 1993, the number of consumer bankruptcies in the province has more than doubled. Nationally, the increase has been somewhat more moderate (+34.3%), with the number of bankruptcies rising substantially in every province except Ontario (+0.7%) and Manitoba (+4.4%). *Source: Industry Canada*

- **Business bankruptcies in the province fell 26.8% in December, compared to the same month of 1998.** Despite a downturn in the latter half of the year, the number of business bankruptcies in the province rose 4.3% in 1999, to 1,075. Alberta (+15.1%) and PEI (+18.8%) were the only other provinces where business bankruptcies were up in 1999. There were 10,023 bankruptcies in Canada last year, 7.0% less than in 1998. *Source: Industry Canada*

Public Sector Employment

- **The number of public sector jobs in the province remained virtually unchanged (+0.1%) at 345,650 in 1999.** Employment in the federal (-0.9%) and local (-0.6%) sectors, which include school boards and the military as well as government ministries and agencies, fell in 1999, but this was offset by a 0.7% increase in the number of people working in the provincial government sector. The increase in provincial employment was due to more people working in health and social services (+1.7%). Employment at universities and colleges (-0.5%) and provincial government ministries and agencies (-0.3%) was down. However, federal, provincial and local crown corporations (+1.0%) in BC increased the size of their workforce in 1999. *Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS*

- **After declining throughout most of the 1990s, the number of public sector jobs per 1,000 population fell in most parts of the country last year.** Ontario (83), BC (86) and Alberta (87) remained the only regions where the number of people on the public payroll, relative to the size of the population, was below the Canadian average (92) in 1999. Employment to population ratios are

Report **Educational attainment and labour market outcomes**

Did you know...
It cost Canadians 52 cents each to keep the Supreme Court going in 1998/99. We paid more (61 cents a person) for the Tax Court, a tribunal for settling tax disputes with the federal government.

highest in Atlantic Canada and the other prairie provinces, ranging from 103 in Newfoundland to 114 in Manitoba. Quebec's public sector employment rate was 98 in 1999.

Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS

- **Eight out of every ten public sector jobs in BC are in the provincial (49%) and local (32%) government sectors.** The federal government employs one in ten public sector workers, with a similar number of people engaged by crown corporations. Administrative functions of provincial (12%) and local (10%) governments account for a relatively small share of total public sector employment. Most of the jobs are in health and social services (25%), schools (22%), or universities and colleges (12%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Solid Waste Generation

- **2.5 million tonnes of solid waste went to landfills and incinerators in the province in 1998.** Per capita waste generation by British Columbians has been gradually decreasing. In 1994, 0.76 tonnes of solid waste per person went to landfills or other waste disposal facilities in the province–about 11 times the body weight of a 150 pound person. By 1998, the per capita generation of waste had fallen to 0.61 tonnes. Nationally, 0.69 tonnes of waste per person were disposed of in 1998. Among the provinces, average waste generation was lowest in Nova Scotia (0.54 tonnes per person), Ontario (0.61) and BC (0.61). It was highest in Alberta (0.87). *Source: SC, The Daily*

Court Costs

- **Nearly a billion dollars ($925 million) was spent operating Canadian courts in 1998/99, most ($760 million) of it going to pay employee salaries and benefits.** Spending on Canadian courts rose 7.4% between 1996/97 and 1998/99. In BC, provincial court costs totalled $132 million, down 1.0% from 1996/97.

  On a per capita basis, operating the court system cost Canadians $30.43 each in 1998/99, with federal courts accounting for $2.69 of the total. Provincial courts cost an average of $27.74 per person, but $32.93 in BC, where court costs were among the highest in the country. Nova Scotia ($42.80) and Manitoba ($35.32) were the only provinces that spent more in 1998/99, although per capita spending in the territories, where a small population skews the ratio, was significantly higher ($132.36 in Yukon and $136.59 in NWT).

Source: SC, Catalogue 85-403

Heritage Institutions

- **During 1997/98, 7.6 million visits were made to museums, historic sites, archives, and other related institutions such as planetoriums, observatories, zoos and botanical gardens in the province.** Attendance was down from two years earlier, when 8.5 million visits were made to heritage institutions in BC. Heritage institutions employed 1,140 full-time and 1,720 part time workers in the province. In addition, 7,820 volunteers contributed their services to these organizations. Nationally, attendance at heritage institutions fell from 54.5 million in 1995/96 to 53.8 million in the 1997/98 fiscal year.

  Total operating revenues for heritage institutions in British Columbia were $117.3 million in 1997/98, of which $69.4 million came from government and private contributions. The remaining $47.9 million came from sales of memberships ($2.6 million), admission fees ($18.2 million) and other sources of revenue ($27.2 million) such as gift shop and cafeteria sales. *Source: Statistics Canada*

National Wealth

- **The value of all non-financial assets (land, buildings, and other tangible goods) owned by Canadians was estimated at $3.3 trillion in 1999, an increase of 4.1% from the previous year.** Taking into account the net indebtedness of Canadians to non-residents, the national net worth was $3.0 trillion or $96,800 per capita in 1999. Individuals and unincorporated businesses had a total credit market debt of $661 billion in 1999, the bulk ($424 billion) of it in the form of mortgage liabilities. Consumer credit for the personal sector totalled $154 billion, while the value of bank and other outstanding loans was $82 billion. *Source: SC, Catalogue 13-214-PPB*

For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

March 31, 2000

Infoline Report:

BC educational attainment and labour market outcomes of persons aged 25-54

Contact: Sharon Churchill / (250) 952-6776
Research, Evaluation & Accountability
Min. of Advanced Education, Training & Technology

Originally published in February 2000 issue, *Labour Force Statistics*. Annual subscription: $60 + GST

Introduction . . . The Labour Force Survey includes questions that determine the educational attainment of survey respondents. This information allows examination of labour force characteristics for persons of various educational attainment.

From 1975 to 1989 educational attainment was based on years of schooling and categorized as:
0 to 8 years
High school (9 to 13 years)
Some post-secondary
Post-secondary certificate or diploma
University degree

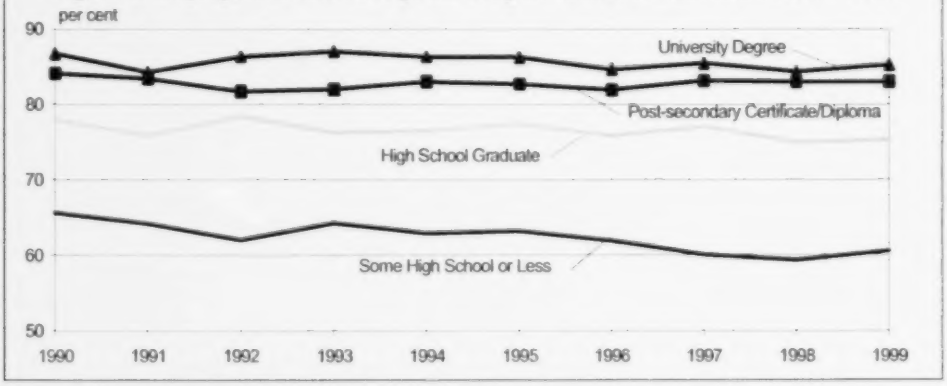
From 1990 to present educational attainment categories are:
0 to 8 years
Some high school education
Graduated from high school
Some post-secondary
Post-secondary certificate or diploma (includes trades certificate)
University degree

Beginning in January 1990 the categories used by the Labour Force Survey were changed substantially causing a break in the data series. Until December 1989, the data on primary and secondary education reflected the number of years of school attainment. Beginning in January 1990 the information is collected on the completed. This change was made to obtain a more consistent measure for those who accelerated or repeated a grade. A question was also

The questions on post-secondary education were also modified. In the past it was assumed any post-secondary participation or completion (including trades certification). With the new towards a post-secondary degree, certificate or diploma is taken as post-secondary education. a-highest degree, certificate or diploma obtained was adopted. This allows the survey to collect secondary education completed. Because of these substantial differences, the two historical ii ectly compared.

adults aged 25 to 54. While some individuals in this group may still be in school or have returned t-up the core of the B.C. labour force.

Figure 1: Employment Rate for Age 25-54 by Educational Attainment 1990 - 1999



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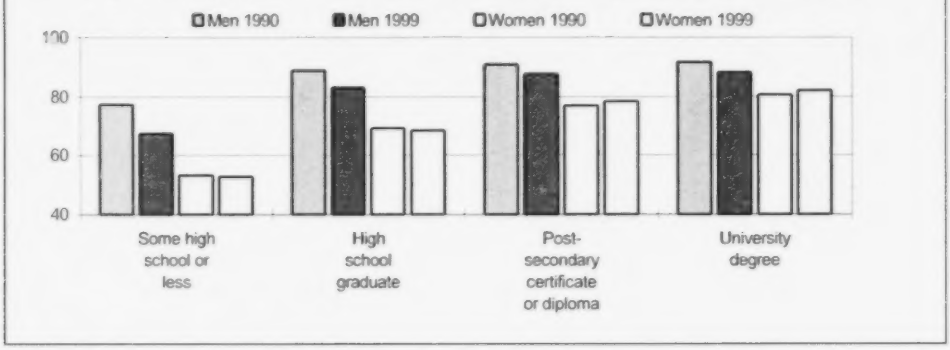
Employment Rate by Educational Attainment . . . Figure 1 above shows the employment rate (employment/population ratio) of individuals in B.C. aged 25 to 54 by highest level of schooling from 1990 to 1999. The likelihood that an individual will be employed rises with each level of education attained. Those with university degrees continue to have the highest employment rate (85.2 per cent in 1999) compared with an employment rate of just over 60 per cent for those with some high school or less. The category of those with some post-secondary education has been excluded here as it includes those currently engaged in studies and those who did not complete their post-secondary studies. Interpretation of labour market outcomes for this heterogeneous group is difficult.

Those with post-secondary education completion have maintained their relatively high employment rates since 1990. Employment rates for those with high school completion have declined in the late 1990's. The most marked decrease in employment rates during the 1990's is for those with some high school education or less. Their employment rate fell by five percentage points from 1990 to 1999.

Employment Rate of Men and Women . . . Figure 2 compares the employment rate of men and women by level of schooling for the years 1990 and 1999. Despite a relatively short time span there were some interesting changes during the 1990's.

Figure 2: Employment Rate for Men and Women Age 25-54, 1990 and 1999



Comparing 1990 and 1999, employment rates for men dropped for all levels of educational attainment while employment rates for women remained unchanged or increased slightly.

For men, the drop in employment rate was most dramatic for those with the least education or training, dropping from 77.1 per cent in 1990 to 67.3 per cent in 1999. In part this likely reflects a relative decline in lesser skilled job openings during the 1990's. Women in this category have an extremely low employment rate, just over 50 per cent. Jobs for women with little education also appear difficult to find. However, many women in this age group are not in the paid labour force at all, but may be occupied in the care of children or engaged in other unpaid activities. Yet clearly, this continues to appear less the case for women with post-secondary education.

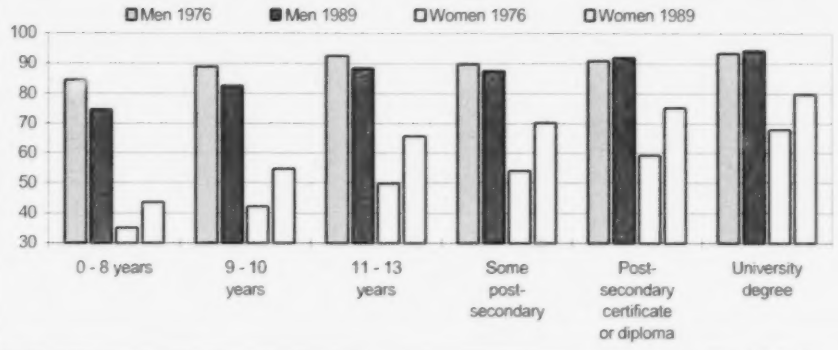
The gap in employment rate between men and women narrows as their level of education increases. This gap has also shrunk over the 1990's. Women with university degrees saw their employment rate increase slightly to 82 per cent in 1999, compared to 88 per cent for men in 1999.

Historical Educational Attainment . . . Figure 3 below shows employment rates of men and women by educational attainment comparing 1976 to 1989. As noted at the outset, the data for this time frame is not readily comparable to the data for the 1990's.

Between 1976 and 1989 there was a dramatic increase in employment rates for B.C. women for every level of schooling. In part this reflected societal change where large numbers of women entered the paid labour force. While women's employment rates rose in the 1970's and 1980's, by 1989 they still remained lower than men's at every level of educational attainment.

In contrast, the employment rates for men in 1976 were all relatively close in magnitude (84 per cent to 93 per cent) between all levels of schooling attained. By 1989 there was a significant decline in employment rates for men who did not complete high school and a slight decline for men with 11 to 13 years of education and those with some post-secondary education. Men with post-secondary completion fared better, seeing employment rates rise slightly to over 90 per cent.

Figure 3: Historical Employment Rates of Men and Women by Educational Attainment 1976 to 1989



Unemployment Rates During the 1990s ...

Figure 4 shows unemployment rates for persons aged 25 to 54 in B.C. during the 1990's. Those with the lowest level of schooling have seen the highest unemployment rates ranging between 13 and 17 per cent compared 5 per cent for those with university degrees when viewed over the decade. Those with a post-secondary diploma or certificate have only slightly higher unemployment rates than university graduates. High school graduates have seen a gradual increase in unemployment rates in recent years, reflecting their decline in employment rates seen over the same time period.

Figure 4: BC Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment, Persons Aged 25 to 54 1990 - 1999

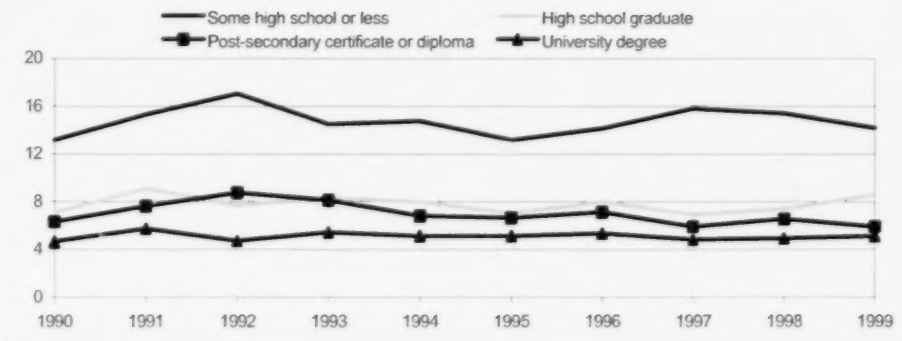


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Figure 5 shows the unemployment rate of B.C. men and women by educational attainment comparing 1990 to 1999. For men, the unemployment rate has risen for those in all educational categories but the largest increases were for those with some high school or less (13 per cent to 16 per cent) and for high school graduates (up from 6.8 per cent to 8.9 per cent). For women, unemployment rates have dropped for those with some high school and those with a post-secondary certificate or diploma.

However, the drop for women with less than high school should not be viewed as any real improvement as the labour force participation rate and employment rate also fell for women in this group between 1990 and 1999

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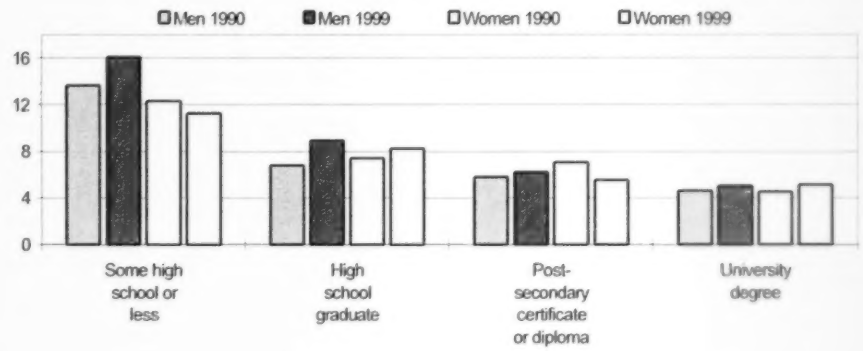
Figure 5
B.C. Unemployment Rate for Persons Aged 25 to 54 by Educational Attainment, 1990 and 1999



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Infoline

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/99	% change on one year ago
BC	4,037.2	0.8
Canada	30,572.5	0.8
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	1998	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	110,948	-0.2
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	99,708	0.2
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	24,908	-0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	15,969	-1.6
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Jan	3,359	15.1
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jan	2,316	6.7
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jan	2,909	4.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	Feb '00	% change on one year ago
BC	111.4	1.2
Canada	112.0	2.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Feb '00	% change on one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,098	1.0
Employed - BC	1,950	2.4
Unemployed - BC	148	-14.1
		Feb '99
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	8.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.8	7.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Mar 29/00	Mar 31/99
Prime Business Rate	7.00	6.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.70	6.45
- 5 year	8.35	6.95
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Mar 29/00	Mar 31/99
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4553	1.5092
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6862	0.6628
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Feb '00	% change on one year ago
BC	626.02	0.3
Canada	604.88	3.1

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

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- Exports, January 2000
- Current Statistics, March 2000
- Business Indicators, March 2000

Next week

- Earnings & Employment Trends, February 2000

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